Harder, Charles (1820-1898)

Karl Harder: Mennonite preacher in Prussia ; born in Königsberg on 10 December 1820. Karl married Renate Tiessen (28 November 1823, Elbing, Prussia - 15 October 1898, Berlin-Charlottenburg, Germany) on 4 October 1846, and they had 10 children, with four living beyond infancy, including Ernst harder . Karl died 4 March 1898 in Elbing .

Karl Harder
Source: Crous, Ernst. Karl and Ernst Harder: An obituary, p. 4.

Karl was by trade a lithographer, but wanted to study theology. His wish was fulfilled with the support of Hermann Warkentin of Königsberg and a financial grant of the Danzig Mennonite Church . He studied at the universities of Danzig and Halle.

In 1845 Harder returned to his home. A number of members of the Elbing congregation wanted him to become their pastor, but he accepted a call to Königsberg. Thereupon about 24 families of the Elbing-Ellerwald congregation built a small church and joined the Königsberg congregation. In 1857 Harder went to Neuwied on the Rhine, and for 12 years served here as pastor and kept the scattered Mennonite congregation intact. He was also the tutor of Prince Hermann of Wied, and thus became the teacher of the highly gifted Elizabeth, who later was Queen of Romania, and who became famous as a poet under the *nom de plume* of Carmen Sylva. Until her death she corresponded with Harder.

In 1868 Harder was called as pastor to Elbing, and served here for 30 years, taking an active part in the life of the city. He established and preferred over a trade school for girls. For his services to city and state he was honored with the Order of the Red Eagle. In 1846-1848 he published *a monthly for the evangelical Mennonites* . Harder was also the author of the following works: *The Life of Menno Symons* (Königsberg, 1846); *Sermons* (10) (Neuwied, 1859); *Leaves for Religion and Education (3 vv. 1869-71); The Christian Religion (* Elbing, 1896); *Brief history of the Elbing Mennonite community* (Elbing, 1883); and posthumously,*Life—A Prayer For My Dear Children and Friends* (*Rushing in the summer holidays of* 1891 and 1892). Harder also frequently wrote articles for the *Mennonitische Blätter* (1858, p. 60; 1888, pp. 2, 70, 117; 1890, p. 51; 1892, pp. 3, 18; 1893, p. 15; 1896, p. 51; 1898, p. 25), admonishing warmly to unity in love and peace.

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Date Published	1956

Cite This Article

MLA style

Neff, Christian. "Harder, Karl (1820-1898)." *Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online*. 1956. Web. 31 Dec 2022. https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Harder,_Karl_(1820-1898)&oldid=145408.

APA style

Neff, Christian. (1956). Harder, Karl (1820-1898). *Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online*. Retrieved 31 December 2022, from https://gameo.org/index.php?title=Harder,_Karl_(1820-1898)&oldid=145408.

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This page was last edited on 16 January 2017, at 00:30.